

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend without prejudice the Specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 34 of page 16 as follows:

--As shown in the figure, the distributed digital signature generation apparatus [[1]] 2 includes a certain number of partial digital signature generation parts 13 and an integrated digital signature generation part 14.--.

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at line 23 of page 17 as follows:

--The "Pair Of Digital Document and Partial Digital Signature" 17 is shown in Figure 3.--.

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 18 as follows:

--The "Digital Document With Additional Information" 18 and the "Pair Of Digital Document With Additional Information And Partial Digital Signature" 19 are shown in Figure 4.--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 21 as follows:

--In the configuration shown in Figs. 2 and 3, each partial digital signature part 13<sub>i</sub> calculates  $S_i(M) = H(M)^{D(i)} \bmod N$  ( $1 \leq i \leq r$ ) for the input digital document M by using a proper hash function (for example, SHA-1 and MD5) whose range is included in  $\{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$ .  $S_i(M)$  is defined as a partial digital signature 16 for M.--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 27 as follows:

--As shown in Fig. 6, m subsets  $I(0), \dots, I(m-1)$  of  $\{r(1), \dots, r(m)\}$  are selected such that each  $I(i)$  consisting of k elements and  $I(i) = (r(((j+1) \bmod m) + 1) \mid 0 \leq j \leq k-1) (i = 0, \dots, m-1)$  in step 61.--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 12 of page 27 as follows:

--The integrated digital signature  $S(M', I(i))$  is generated from  $\{S_{r(i)}(M') \mid r(i) \in I(i)\}$   
for each  $I(i)$  ( $i = 0, \dots, m-1$ ) in step 62.--.

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 27 as follows:

--The next step 64 of Figure 7 is performed as follows:--.